

## Zeal - the Fuel That Propels Us

Titus 2:11-14

**Zeal Defined:** "Fervor for a person, cause, or object; eager desire or endeavor; enthusiastic diligence. Fervent or enthusiastic devotion, often extreme or fanatical in nature, as to a religious movement, political cause, ideal, or aspiration" (Dictionary.com).

**Zeal in the Bible:** An earnest temper; may be enlightened (Num. 25:11-13; 2 Cor. 7:11; 9:2), or ignorant and misdirected (Rom. 10:2; Phil. 3:6). As a Christian grace, it must be grounded on right principles and directed to right ends (Gal. 4:18). It is sometimes ascribed to God (2 Kings 19:31; Isa. 9:7; 37:32; Ezek. 5:13) - (Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary).

According to Biblegateway.com there are 38 references to "zeal" in the New American Standard version of the Bible.

God Himself is zealous and fervently passionate about His people and His plan. In simplest terms, zeal is fuel. It is anything that drives people: their passion, their purpose, what they live for. For Christians, zeal is a burning desire to do God's will and to live according to His purpose.

**Zeal Modeled:** What does zeal look like?

The Zeal of Phinehas: "The Lord said to Moses, "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal" (Numbers 25:10-11 NIV).

The Zeal of Jesus: "So He (Jesus) made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves He said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me" (John 2:15-17 NIV).

The Zeal of the Disciples (Church): "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:11-14).

**Zeal Applied:** How can we put zeal to work in our lives?

1. Take a stand for God.
2. Rid yourself of anything that offends God.
3. Express gratitude.
4. Set an example of a joy filled, enthusiastic life.
5. Rekindle your zeal.

